



# NORTH MONASTERY SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022  
ISSUE NO. 2

## An Mhainistir Thuaidh



### Razem - Le Cheile - Together for Ukraine

One of the major success stories of the year was our recent appeal for Ukraine. Both **North Monastery Secondary School** and **Szkoła Polksa w Cork** worked together to send vital resources to the people of Ukraine. This partnership resulted in four car loads and two van loads of vital resources which were sent to Poland before being transported to neighbouring Ukraine. Staff, students and their families from both schools and the wider community helped to support the appeal.

Due to the ongoing conflict it is reported more than 12 million are believed to have fled their homes. In recent months Ireland has become home to some 19,000 Ukrainian refugees.

Your donations and kind support exceeded our expectations, it was great to work together on this very important initiative.

**Go raibh maith agat! / Dziękuję Ci / Дякую**

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# 210 YEARS IN THE MAKING



## 'A pillar of the northside': North Mon celebrates 210 years of serving community

In November 2021, we celebrated 210 years of providing second-level education with a series of in-house events. The significant milestone occurred on Tuesday, November 9.

The celebrations were marked with Fionnuala MacCurtain cutting the celebration cake — the granddaughter of Tomás MacCurtain, a former Lord Mayor and pupil, and Fianna Fáil councillor Tony Fitzgerald, another former pupil, who deputised for the lord mayor.

Thousands of pupils have passed through the doors of the northside institution since its inception in 1811. Many have progressed to become leaders and contributors to the world of politics, education, media, arts, sports, religion, technology, science, and the wider community.

As part of the celebrations the school used its social media platforms to feature students who attended the school over the last 210 years.



Photos - Above current North Mon students Shane Carroll and Kyle Morey (above). On the left former students Seán Óg Ó hAilpín, P.J. Kirby and Patrick Horgan.



# NEW TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



On February 14th this year we welcomed our new principal Tony McSweeney into our school community.

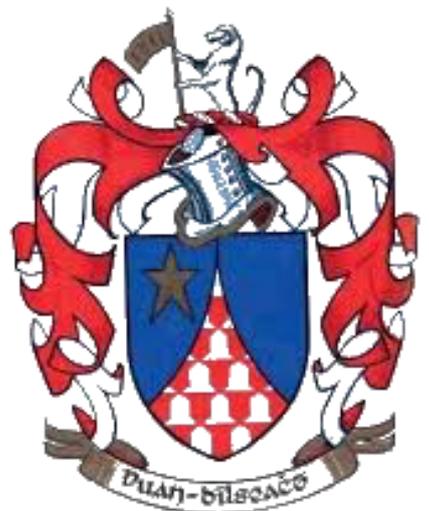
Upon his arrival to the school speaking to the The Echo Mr McSweeney commented "I want to deliver a holistic education. We have excellent and hardworking staff, so I want to support them.

"I want to make sure our students when they leave school have the knowledge, the skills, the competencies, and the values to go out and be valued contributors in society. We want to help them reach and surpass their potential after their educational experience in the Mon."

Upon his arrival to the school, Mr. McSweeney spoke to the Echo where he expressed his vision for the future "I want to deliver a holistic education. We have excellent and hardworking staff, so I want to support them.

"I want to make sure our students when they leave school have the knowledge, the skills, the competencies, and the values to go out and be valued contributors in society. We want to help them reach and surpass their potential after their educational experience in the Mon."

Mr McSweeney received a very warm welcome in the local community following his recent appointment. He said it is important to create a pathway for students to succeed.



# 1ST YEAR STUDENTS



Our newest students to the Mon were kept busy this year. Some of our first years were involved in a six week gardening workshop. Here they learned various gardening skills and displayed flowers and herbs grown by the students. Well done to all who participated.



Other first years were involved in the **One school, One book** programme where students engaged with the novel *Auggie and Me: Three Wonderful Stories* written by R.J.Palacio.

As part our JCSP programme first years were taken to Airtastic to make the school day that more active and fun.

Many of our first years got involved in various sporting activities - preparing themselves as the next generation of North Mon players in basketball, soccer, football and hurling.





## Major success at U16.5 Gaelic Football

Members of the combined North Monastery & Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG Under 16.5 Football team were victorious in the Munster Football Final v Kilmihill from Clare in early May. Students were later awarded with medals and a cup to recognise their success. Well done to North Mon students Jamie Crowley, Conor Kent and Josh O'Connor and their coaches Mr. Maher and Mr. O'Brien



North Monastery & Gaelcholáiste Mhuire AG Under 16.5 Football team

## Seven Medals for the Mon at Athletics Competition

A number of our junior and senior cycle students travelled to MTU in May to compete in the South Munster Schools Athletics Competition where they brought home 7 medals in total across both Track & Field events. Well done to all the boys who took part and to their coach Ms. O'Connor.



## Sports Day 2022

Our annual sports day took place on May 26. Our students performed very well on the day with many students picking up medals across various sports. Our students continued their success when they beat our staff in the annual tug-of-war challenge. However, our staff were successful overtaking our students in the annual soccer match. The teachers win again for another year :P.





As part of our **Creative Schools Week 2022** our two 2nd year art classes and 2nd year music visited went to the **The Glucksman Gallery** in **UCC**.

They took part in the Green Lines workshop. This workshop was used as a starting point for our pupils to create art around the themes of **environment, sustainability** and **biodiversity**. Students were also involved in different workshops such as making their own Zine (a small magazine) and a special Circus workshop. More exciting creative projects will happen throughout the 2022-2023 academic year.



## ART DEPARTMENT

Both TY groups created a group mural in the Base Unit. The artwork includes spray painting, stencilling, hand drawn and painted images base around themes specific to our school community and ideas put forward by our students. Our first years were involved in a project to create art murals in response to events in Ukraine. Our art department were also heavily involved creating displays for the Creative Schools Week and our 2nd year students visited the grounds of UCC and the Glucksman Gallery to complete some sketches of the surrounding area.

# WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY



## 3 is the magic number

**The new initiative will run over the next three years.**

Our school is working alongside **North Monastery Primary School**, and the **Blarney Street CBS** on an maths initiative which will run over the next three years.

The project is being led by the North Mon Secondary School with a focus on numeracy methodologies, to improve student attitudes towards maths and prepare them for Junior Cycle.

The project was launched in mid-Spring and is set to commence in the 2022-2023 academic year.

A substantial grant from the Department of Education was approved to enable the three schools to invest in maths equipment and IT equipment books.



## One Book, One Community

Our first year team at the annual One Book One Community quiz. They went with a team name of 'Pollen Pickers'. The community book for OBOC literacy initiative is called 'Auggie and me' by RJ Palacio.



LCA's displayed their creative side throughout the year. As part of their Craft and Design class **5LCA** worked hard with their art teacher Mr Ruby and helped to raise money for local charities including presenting a cheque for €200 to Caitriona Twomey of Cork Penny Dinners. This money was raised by selling T-shirts designed by the students themselves.



Responding to global issues, our LCA's helped to raise much needed funds for charities supporting Ukrainian refugees, through a cake sale. Our boys helped to raise €250.

**6LCA's** helped to design and install our new rock garden. They worked very hard to create a new school garden with a strong focus on developing a biodiversity area within the school grounds.

They also upcycled donated pallets to create a composting area, a vertical herb garden and hedgehog and bee hotels.



## WELLBEING



**Wellbeing Week** commenced from May 16th with special awareness workshops and fun activities. Col Conway from the Maire Keating Foundation spoke to 5th and 6th Years about the importance of healthy eating and staying active. She also described ways to prevent cancer and ways to support those impacted by the illness. Students were also involved in nutritional workshops and health cooking demonstrations. Fun activities included quizzes, karaoke and team building workshops, sporting activities, making TicTok videos and music by local musician Myles Gaffney.



The **JCSP programme** continued to be busy this academic year from Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) to special activities.

At various points throughout the year DEAR took place allowing students the opportunity to read their favourite novels and comics. This purpose to encourage students to read more and to make reading an enjoyable experience.

Other initiatives took place during the year including creating a song in a day with a special workshops provided by **GMC Beats**. Garry McCarthy of GMC Beats visited the school to encourage our students to become a 'Rapper for the Day'.

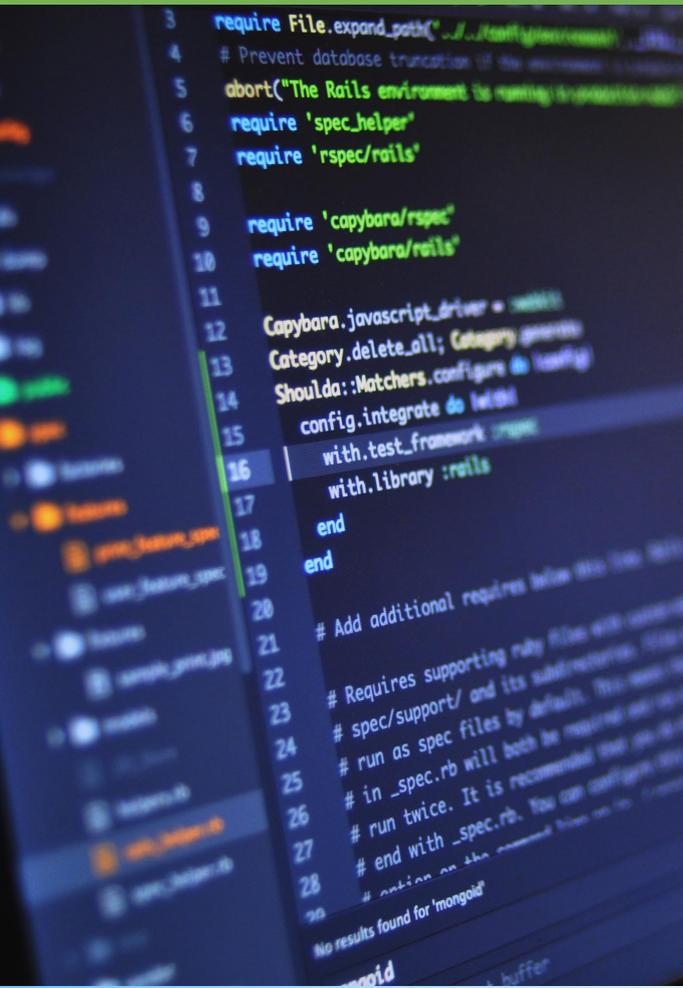
Different year groups were taken on trips including ice-skating, airtastic and among others. Students also embraced World Book Day.

All of these initiatives are supported by the Department of Education and JCSP.



Junior Cycle students who took part in World Book Day 2022

# DIGITAL LEARNING

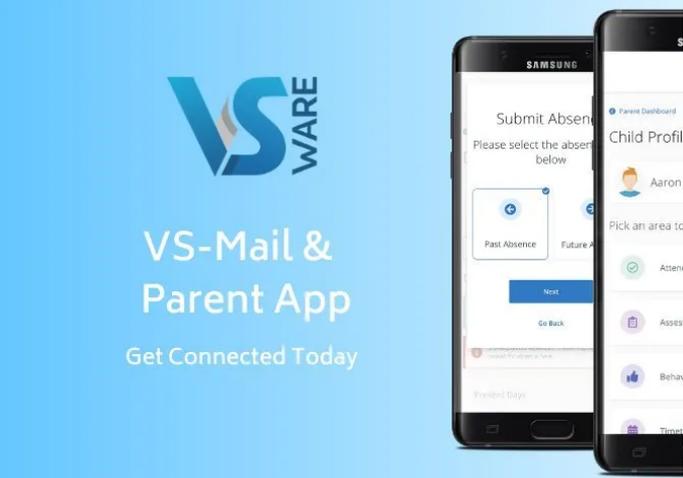


During the course of the year our school community has been busy working on a new programme supported by **Microsoft Ireland** and **Maynooth Univeristy** titled the 'Digital Wealth Project'.

A number of workshops took place throughout the year with the aim to roll out further workshops in the next academic year.

One standout workshop from this programme included a special Coding class with staff from Microsoft Ireland working with our 2nd years to develop their own video games.

Watch this space for new and exiting workshops from September.



The **VSWare app** was rolled out across the school community giving parents/guardians the opportunity to view their son's attendance and exam results. We will be adding other features to the app in the next academic year.

# SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE



Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dteanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn agus in go leor áiteanna. Rinneamar é seo a cheiliúradh le tráth na gceist agus gníomhaíochtaí spráíúla trí Ghaeilge.

# NEW TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY



Following events in the Ukraine, our school was delighted to welcome a number of Ukrainian students to our school in March.

Many different initiatives took place in recent weeks to help integrate our students into the school community. The addition of Ukrainian students means we have 22 different nationalities within our school. Something we just had to celebrate.

In May, a number of events took place: on May 5th a coffee morning took place giving parents, guardians and students the opportunity to get to know one another.

On May 10th the mothers of our Ukrainian students visited our staffroom to provide staff members with the Ukrainian national dish - **Borscht**.

This beautiful dish known for its distinctive deep red colour is generally made from beetroot, beef, cabbage, and variety of root vegetables.

Our Ukrainian students were taken on a number of activities such as paint balling, bowling and a visit to Spike Island and Cobh to name a few.

## LEARN SOME UKRAINIAN

Hello - **Привіт (Pryvit)**

Thank You - **Дякую (Dyakuu)**

Welcome - **Ласкаво просимо (Laskavo prosymo)**

Please - **Будь ласка (Bud' laska)**

Goodbye - **до побачення (do robachennya)**



**Oysterhaven**



**Spike Island**



**Paint ball**



**Concern**

TY students continued to be busy this year developing new skills and taking part in various activities. Our TYs occupied themselves with special workshops and programmes such as **Foróige Leadership for Life**. Students prepared themselves for working life by completing a number of online courses from food safety to customer service, all of these courses certified for two years.

Students were involved in various activities from team building days at **Oysterhaven** to a cultural trip to Dublin with a visit to **Dublin Zoo** and **The Lion King** at the **Bórd Gais Energy Theatre** to visiting local cultural sites such as **Spike Island** to name a few.



**Dublin Trip**



## North Mon students honour martyrs of 1916

Students from the North Monastery History Club planted rose bushes on school grounds as part of a commemorative event to honour the martyrs of the 1916 Rising.

Councillors from **Cork City Council** and representatives from all the schools on the campus watched on as the North Mon History Club students replanted rose bushes at the central flagpole on the campus between the primary and secondary schools.

Mr Ryan explained events on the day where the students planted a rose bush for each of the 16 martyrs who were executed the 1916 Rising.

"The students planted 16 rose bushes in a central flagpole on the campus," he said. "The students planned the whole event, followed it through and it all ran off seamlessly. The 16 rose bushes are to commemorate the 16 martyrs.

Cllr Tony Fitzgerald came up with the idea to replant the rose bushes. He approached the club members, and he got the rose bushes."

The North Mon secondary school itself boasts a long history, firmly embedded in the local community since its inception in 1811.

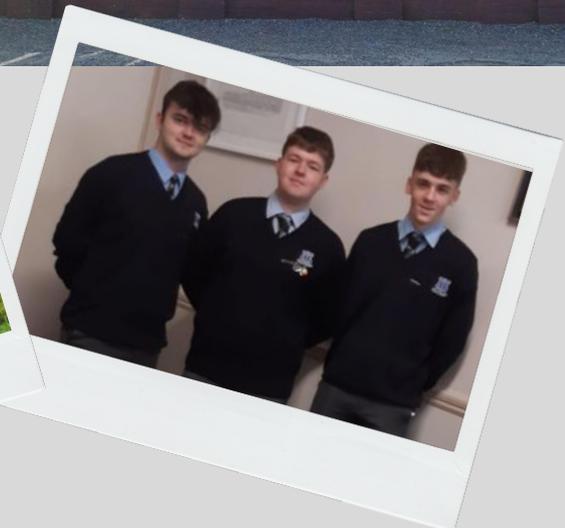


# HISTORY CLUB



**Cllr Damian Boylan** sponsored the creation of North Mon Badges for the History Club. History Club distributed the badges to every student and member of staff as part of their work to promote **School Pride & Culture with Heritage Keepers** and **Cork City Council**.

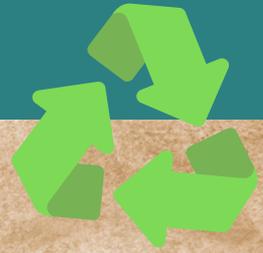
1st & 3rd Year History students explored sites associated with **Michael Collins** around West Cork in late May. The boys visited **Béal na mBláth**, Sam's Cross, Clonakilty Town, Michael Collins Birth Place and the **Michael Collins Experience Museum**.



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Our Spanish classes were introduced to the traditional desert **churro**, often consumed at breakfast, lunch or after dinner in Spain, Portugal and Latin America. Students were also introduced to the very popular Mexican dish of Nacho's among others. Our language classes also attended local film festivals viewing films in both French and Spanish and others were involved in language workshops.





Following on from the success of being awarded a Water flag last year, members of our Green Flag Committee continued to show their commitment to the environmental cause, meeting every Friday at lunchtime to discuss their next move.

Starting in September we will work towards encouraging more people to walk, cycle and take public transportation to school and work. For the moment the team continue to monitor energy use, recycling and water use within our school community.

Recently the Green School team visited our school to attend a special meeting with our students and teachers involved in our Green Flag Committee to discuss the next stages of our Green policy. From September we will focus on how we travel to school and work each morning and consider more sustainable ways to travel.



# AND IN OTHER NEWS...



Students across Junior and Senior cycle were awarded certificates of attendance for maintaining very good attendance throughout the academic year.

**Tony O'Donovan** of **Autism Lifeskill Friend (ALF)** handing over a cheque to our Base Unit from money raised by the organisation. The money which will go towards a new interactive whiteboard for our ASD classes which will serve to improve the students educational experience. Thanks to Tony and all at Musgraves in Tramore Road for their support.



## Leaving Cert Class of 2022

On May 25th, we said a fond farewell to Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied Class of 2022.

The occasion was marked by a special graduation event where the whole school community came out to celebrate.

Once again we would like to wish the 6th Year Class of 2022 the very best of luck in their futures and whatever path life takes them on.

We say goodbye to a fantastic group of students who have shown remarkable resilience during difficult times.

# celebrate

2021-2022



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**NORTH MONASTERY SECONDARY SCHOOL**  
 North Monastery Road,  
 Cork City  
 T23 P825

[www.northmonastery.ie](http://www.northmonastery.ie)



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[facebook.com/northmoncbs](https://facebook.com/northmoncbs)



[info@northmonastery.ie](mailto:info@northmonastery.ie)